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Amendments to the Specification:

Please enter the Sequence Listing annexed hereto as **Exhibit C** into the specification.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

Figure 5: (A) Schematic representations of truncated CD44 constructs and putative cleavage sites of CD44 (SEQ. ID. NO: 1). Starting amino acid sequences of truncated ( $\Delta E$ ) or intracellular (ICD) CD44 constructs and predicated proteolytic cleavage sites are indicated by arrows. Full-length (FL) and all ICD constructs contain C-terminal V5 tag, whereas all  $\Delta E$  constructs harbor N-terminal HA tag located immediately after the signal peptide in addition to the C-terminal V5 tag. (B) Expression of truncated CD44 constructs in HEK293 cells. The lysates from the cells transfected with indicated constructs were analyzed by Western blot analyses analysis. The locations of precursor polypeptide encoded by each constructs as well as the cleavage products (e.g. S1, T1, and T2) are shown on the right side of each blot. The lysates from full length CD44-transfected cells grown in the absence (FL) or presence (FL + hyaluronan) of hyaluronan are shown as controls. The treatment with hyaluronan caused the increased generation of S1 and T2 cleavage (FL vs. FL + hyaluronan).